

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A certain number of stamped core sheets 13 are laminated so that the outer holes 13c are aligned straight in the axial direction, thereby forming each core sheet block 14A-14C. The core sheet block 14B is laminated on the core sheet block 14A so that the outer holes 13c of the core sheet block 14B are ~~sifted~~shifted from those of the core sheet block 14A by a predetermined angle e.g., an angle corresponding to one slot pitch. The core sheet block 14C is laminated on the core sheet block 14B in the same manner so that the outer holes 13c of the core sheet block 14C are shifted from those of the core sheet block 14B by the same predetermined angle. The shaft 6 is forcibly inserted into the center holes 13a of the laminated core sheet blocks 14. In this manner, air passages 15 (shown in FIG. 4) are formed through the armature core 7 in its axial direction. The air passages 15, however, do not extend in parallel to the shaft 6 but are skewed because the outer holes of each core sheet block 14A-14C are shifted from one another by an predetermined angle, e.g., by one slot pitch. The shaft 6 which is forcibly inserted into the center hole 13 has a smooth surface, i.e., no knurl or the like is formed on the outer surface.